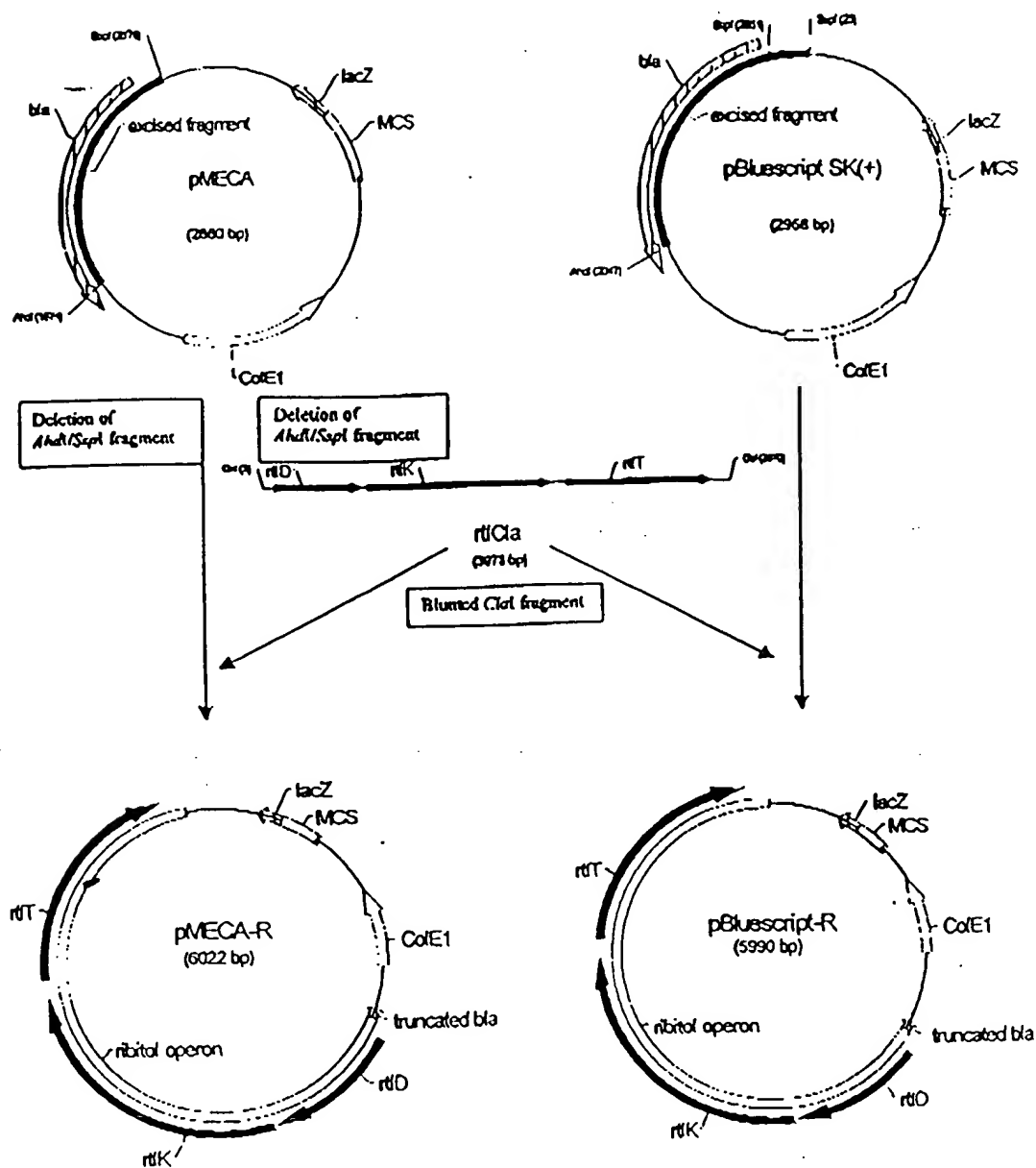
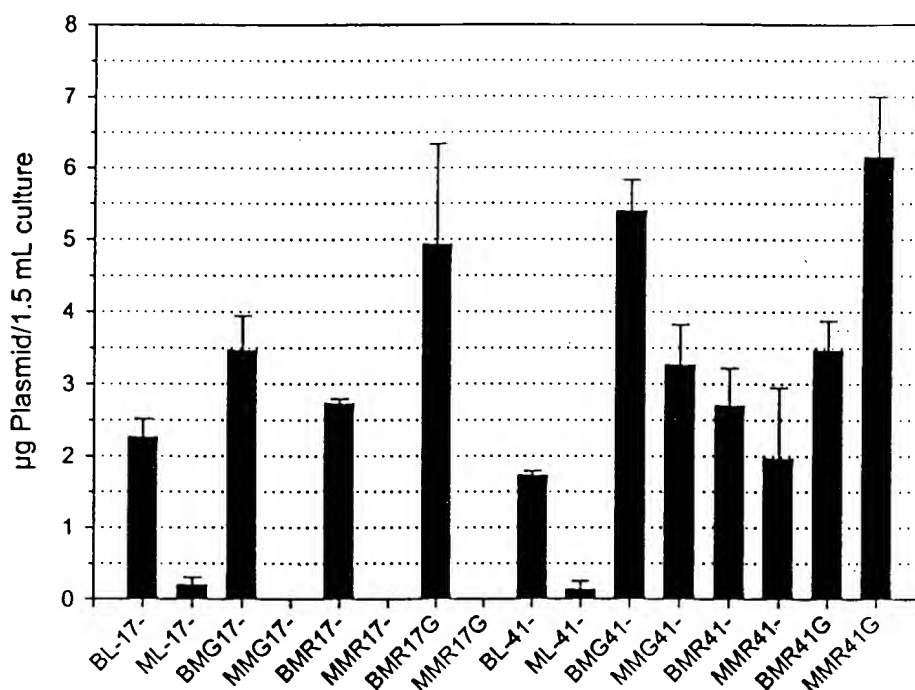


Figure 1. Replacement of *bla* with *rtIK*, *rtID*, and *rtIT* in pMECA and pBluescript:



**Figure 2.** Comparative plasmid yields in DH10B of pBluescript and pMECA, growing in LB broth or 2B minimal medium supplemented with glucose, and of their ribitol derivatives growing on 2B minimal medium with ribitol. Plasmid yield data were collected at 17 and 41 hours. Plasmid yields for pBluescript-R and pMECA-R with a GUS construct cloned into their multiple cloning sites were also compared. Bars represent the average of three replications  $\pm$  standard error.



Legend: The first letter signifies the plasmid backbone: B = pBluescript, M = pMECA. The second letter indicates the medium: L = Luria-Bertani broth, M = 2B minimal medium. The third position denotes the carbohydrate source: a '-' means no additional carbohydrate, G = glucose, and R = ribitol. The number is for the amount of growth time: 17 or 41 hours. The final position denotes if the plasmid had an insert cloned into its multiple cloning site: a '-' means no insert, and G refers to a GUS construct.